

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Systems

Compliance Outline

In Maryland, certain underground storage tank (UST) systems must meet various compliance requirements. The requirements arise from state and/or federal regulations. This fact sheet will help determine the compliance requirements for your UST system. Most UST systems must be properly registered with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Oil Control Program.

Residential & Farm UST Systems

- Tanks capable of storing 1,100 gallons or less of petroleum products:
 - Are exempt from regulations and do not have to be registered with MDE
- Tanks capable of storing more than 1,100 gallons must:
 - Comply with the State regulation requirements listed below
- Out-of-Service Tanks
 - Must be abandoned properly to prevent the release of product or structural failure of the out-of-service tank system
 - Refer to the fact sheet titled "Underground Storage Tank Removal or Closure"

Heating Oil for Direct Consumptive Use (state regulated)

- Compliance for existing systems (installed prior to March 15, 1985) requires:
 - Registering your tank with MDE, Oil Control Program
 - Gauging the tank prior to filling
 - Recording gauge readings and maintaining records
 - Properly marking fill pipes in accordance with American Petroleum Institute (API)
 - Performing precision test on system at 15 years of age and every five (5) years thereafter
- Compliance for new systems (installed on or after March 15, 1985) requires:
 - Registering your tank with MDE, Oil Control Program
 - Gauging tank prior to filling
 - Recording gauge readings and maintaining records
 - Having corrosion protection
 - Using a certified technician for installation or repairs
 - Performing precision test prior to first use
 - Installing two monitoring pipes in tank field
 - Marking fill pipes in accordance with API
 - Performing precision test system at 15 years of age and every five (5) years thereafter
 - Having spill and overfill protection after November 4, 1996 (For UST's under 1,000 gallon capacity, a whistle will suffice)
- Out-of-Service UST Systems
 - Systems Not in Compliance with Corrosion Protection Requirements
 - Removal must be performed by certified technician or remover contractor
 - Permanently close system within 180 days of last use
 - Notify MDE, Oil Control Program in writing 30 days prior to removal
 - Confirm notification 48 hours prior to removal
 - Schedule site assessment to fulfill requirement. MDE inspector's presence will satisfy site assessment requirement
- Systems in Compliance with Corrosion Protection Requirements
 - Removal must be performed by certified technician or remover contractor
 - Permanently close system with one (1) year of last use
 - Notify MDE, Oil Control Program in writing 30 days prior to removal
 - Confirm notification 48 hours prior to removal

- Schedule site assessment to fulfill requirement. MDE inspector's presence will satisfy site assessment requirement

Motor Fuel, Used Oil, Bulk Heating Oil Storage Systems (federal & state regulated)

- Compliance for existing systems (installed prior to December 22, 1988) requires:
 - Using certified technicians for repairs
 - Having release detection such as monthly monitoring
 - Having spill and overfill protection
 - Having corrosion protection
 - Having metered storage that keeps daily inventory and monthly reconciliation records
 - Marking fill pipes in accordance with API
 - Having leak detectors on pressurized piping and testing precision yearly (or having monthly monitored release detection)
 - Having financial responsibility
- Compliance for new systems (installed on or after December 22, 1988) requires:
 - Using certified technicians for installation or repairs
 - Having monthly monitored release detection for tanks and lines
 - Having spill and overfill protection
 - Having corrosion protection
 - Having metered storage that keeps daily inventory and monthly reconciliation records
 - Marking fill pipes in accordance with API
 - Installing two (2) monitoring pipes in tank field
 - Having financial responsibility

Emergency Generator Tanks

- Follow requirements listed in section titled "Motor Fuel, Used Oil, Bulk Heating Oil Storage Systems" above with the exception of monthly monitored release detection
- Precision test tank at 15 years of age and every five (5) years thereafter